AN

ADDRESS

Agreed upon at the Committee

FOR THE

FRENCH WAR,

And Read in the

Houſe of Commons

APRIL the 19th. 1689.

Licenſed, and Entred according to Law.

LONDON,

Printed for *Richard Janeway* in *Queens-Head Alley* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. 1689.

AN

ADDRESS

Agreed upon at the Committee for the

French WAR, &c.

WE Your Majeſty's moſt Loyal Subjects the Commons of *England* in Parliament Aſſembled, have taken into our moſt ſerious Conſideration the Condition and State of this Nation in reſpect of *France*, and Foreign Alliances; In order to which, we have Examined the Miſchiefs brought upon Chriſtendom in late Years by the *French* King, who, without any reſpect to Juſtice, has by Fraud and Force indeavoured to ſubject it to an Arbitrary and Univerſal Monarchy.

In Proſecution of this Deſign ſo pernicious to the Repoſe and Safety of *Europe*, he has neglected none of thoſe means how indirect ſoever, which his Ambition or Avarice could ſuggeſt to him. The Faith of Treaties among all Princes, eſpecially Chriſtian Princes, ever held moſt Inviolable, has never been able to reſtrain him, nor the ſolemneſt Oaths to bind him, when any Occaſion preſented it ſelf for Extending the Limits of his Kingdom, or Oppreſſing thoſe whom his Intereſt inclined him to Qualifie by the Name of his Enemies. Witneſs his haughty and groundleſs *Declaration of War* againſt the *States General* of the *United Provinces* in the Year 1672, in which he aſſigned no other Reaſon for diſturbing that profound Peace, which through God's Mercy, all *Europe* enjoyed at that time; But his own glory and his Reſolution to Puniſh the *Dutch*, for ſome Imaginary ſlights and diſreſpects which he would have had the World

World believe they had put upon him: Whereas the true Occaſion of that War was nothing elſe but a formed Deſign laid down and agreed upon by that King and his Accomplices, for the Subverſion of the Liberties of *Europe*, and for Aboliſhing the Common Wealth of *Holland*, as being too dangerous an Example of Liberty to the Subjects of Neighbouring Monarchs. The Zeal for Catholick Religion, which was Pretended by him in this and the following Wars, did afterwards ſufficiently appear to the World, to be no other than a Cloak for his unmeaſurable Ambition; For at the ſame time when the Perſecution grew hotteſt againſt the Proteſtants of *France*, Letters were intercepted (and Publiſhed) from him to Count *Teckely*, to give him the greateſt Incouragement, and Promiſe him the utmoſt Aſſiſtance in the War, which in Conjunction with the Turk he then managed againſt the firſt and greateſt of all the Roman Catholick Princes.

Witneſs alſo the many open Infractions of the Treaties, both of *Aix la Chapelle* and *Nimeguen* (whereof Your Majeſty is the ſtrongeſt Guarranty) upon the moſt frivolous Pretences imaginable, of which the moſt uſual was that of Dependancies; an Invention ſet on foot on purpoſe to ſerve for a Pretext of Rupture with all his Neighbors, unleſs they choſe rather to ſatisfie his Endleſs Demands, by abandoning one Place after another, to his inſatiable appetite of Empire, and for maintaining whereof, the two Chambers of *Metz* and *Briſſach* were Erected to find out and forge Titles, and to invent Equivocal Conſtructions for eluding the plain meaning of Treaties Concluded and Sworn with the greateſt Solemnity, and then which nothing can be more Sacred among Mankind.

From hence it was alſo that *Strasburg* was ſo infamouſly Surprized by the *French* King in a time of full Peace, and though great Conditions were Agreed and Promiſed to the Inhabitants of that City, yet no ſooner was he in Poſſeſſion of it, but all Stipulations were forgotten, and that Ancient free City doth now groan under the ſame Yoke with the reſt of that King's Subjects.

The

The building the Fort of *Hunninghen* contrary to ſo many ſolemn Aſſurances given to the Switzes, and the Affair of *Luxemburgh* are too well known to need a particular Deduction. In a Word, the whole Series of the French King's Actions for many Years laſt paſt has been ſo ordered, as if it were his Intention not only to render his own People extreamly miſerable, by intollerable Impoſition of Taxes, to be employed in maintaining an incredible Number of Dragoons and other Soldiers, to be the Inſtruments of his Cruelty upon ſuch of them as refuſe in all things to comply with his unjuſt Commands, but likewiſe to hold all the neighbouring Powers in perpetual Alarm and Expence for the maintaining of Armies and Fleets, that they may be in a Poſture to defend themſelves againſt the Invador of their common Safety and Liberties.

Examples of this ſort might be innumerable, but his Invaſion of *Flanders* and *Holland* ſince the laſt Truce of 1684. and the Outrages committed upon the Empire by attacking the Fort of *Philipsburg*, without any Declaration of War, at the ſame time that his Imperial Majeſty was imploying all his Forces againſt the Common Enemy of the Chriſtian Faith, and his waſting the *Palatinate* with Fire and Sword, and murdering an infinite number of innocent Perſons for no other Reaſons, as himſelf has publickly declared, but becauſe he thought the *Elector Palatine* faithful to the Intereſt of the Empire, and an Obſtacle to the compaſſing his ambitious Deſigns, are ſufficient Inſtances of this.

To theſe we cannot, but with a particular Reſentment add the Injuries done to your Majeſty in the moſt unjuſt and violent ſeizing of your Principality of *Orange*, and the utmoſt Inſolencies committed on the Perſons of your Majeſty's Subjects there; and how to facilitate his Conqueſts upon his Neighbour Princes, he ingaged the Turks in a War againſt Chriſtendom at the ſame time.

And as if violating of Treaties, and ravaging the Countries of his Neighbours States were not ſufficient means of advancing his exorbitant Power and Greatneſs, he has conſtantly had recourſe to the vileſt and meaneſt Arts, for the Ruine of thoſe whom he had taken upon him to ſubdue to his Will and Power, inſinuating himſelf by his Emiſſaries under the ſacred Name and Character of *Publick Miniſters*, into thoſe who were intruſted in the Government of Kingdoms and States, ſuborning them by Gifts and Penſions, to the ſelling their Maſters and betraying their Truſts, and deſcending even to Intrigues by Women, who were ſent or married into the Countries of diverſe Potent Princes, to lie as Snakes in their Boſoms to eat out their Bowels, or to inſtil that Poyſon into them which might prove the Deſtruction of them and their Countries, of which *Poland*, *Savoy* and *Spain*, to mention no more at preſent, can give but too ample Teſtimonies.

The inſolent Uſe he has made of his ill-gotten Greatneſs has been as Extravagant as the means of procuring it, for this the ſingle Inſtance of *Genoa* may ſuffice; which without the leaſt Notice or any Ground of a Quarrel whatſoever was bombarded by the *French* Fleet, and the Doge and four principal Senators of that Free-State conſtrained in perſon to humble themſelves at that Monarch's Feet; which in the Style of *France* was called *Chaſtiſing Sovereigns for caſting Umbrage upon his Greatneſs.*

His Practices againſt *England* have been of the ſame nature, and by corrupt means he has conſtantly and with too much Succeſs endeavoured to get ſuch Power in the Court of *England*, in the time of King *Charles* the Second and the late King *James*, as might by degrees undermine the Government and true Intereſt of this flouriſhing Kingdom.

Another Art which he has uſed to weaken *England*, and ſubject it to his aſpiring Deſigns, was never to admit

admit an equal Ballance of Trade, nor conſent to any juſt Treaty or Settlement of Commerce, by which he promoted our Ruine at our own Charge.

When from a Juſt Apprehenſion of this formidable growing Power of *France*, the Nation became Zealous to right themſelves; and the Houſe of Commons, in the Year 1677. being aſſured they ſhould have an actual War againſt *France*, cheerfully raiſed a great Sum of Mony, and an Army as readily appeared to carry on the War; that Intereſt of *France* had ſtill Power enough to render all this ineffectual, and and to fruſtrate the Nation of all their Hopes and Expectations.

Nor did *France* only render this deſired War ineffectual, but had Power enough to make us practice their Injuſtice and Irregularities (ſome Years before) by turning our Force againſt our next Neighbours, by aſſaulting their *Smirna* Fleet.

Nor were they more Induſtrious, by Corrupt Means, to obtain this Power, than careful, by the ſame ways to ſupport it; and knowing that from Parliaments only could probably proceed an Obſtruction to their Secret Practices, they attempted to make a Bargain, That they ſhould not meet in ſuch a time; in which they might hope to perfect their Deſigns, of enſlaving the Nation.

In the ſame Confidence of this Power they violently ſeized upon part of *Hudſon's Bay*; and when the matter was complained of by the Company, and the Injury offered to be proved, the beſt Expedient *France* could find to cover their Injuſtice, and prevent Satisfaction, was to make uſe of their great Intereſt in the Court of *England* to keep it from ever coming to be heard.

The French King, in purſuance of his uſual Methods, of laying hold of any Opportunity that might increaſe his Power, and give Diſturbance to others, has now carried on an actual War in *Ireland*, ſending thither

thither a great number of Officers with Mony, Arms and Ammunition, and under the Pretence of aſſiſting the late King *James*, he has taken the Government of Affairs into his Hands, by putting all Officers into Commands, and managing the whole Buſineſs by his Miniſters, and has already begun to uſe the ſame Cruelties and Violences upon your Majeſty's Subjects, as he has lately practiſed in his own Dominions, and in all other Places, where he has got Power enough to deſtroy.

Laſtly, The French King's Declaration of War againſt the the Crown of *Spain*, is wholly grounded upon its Friendſhip to your Majeſty's Royal Perſon, and no other cauſe of denouncing War againſt it is therein alledged, than the Reſolution taken in that Court, to favour your Majeſty, whom he moſt injuriouſly terms *the Uſurper of England*, an Inſolence never-enough to be reſented and deteſted by your Majeſty's Subjects.

After our humble Repreſentation of all theſe Particulars to your Majeſty, if your Majeſty ſhall think fit to enter into a War againſt *France*, We humbly aſſure your Majeſty, That we will give you ſuch Aſſiſtance in a Parliamentary way, as ſhall enable your Majeſty to ſupport and go through the ſame; and we ſhall not doubt, but by the Bleſſing of God upon your Majeſty's prudent Conduct, a Stop may be put to that growing Greatneſs of the French King, which threathens all *Chriſtendom* with no leſs than abſolute Slavery, the incredible quantity of Innocent Blood ſhed may be revenged, his Oppreſſed Neighbours reſtored to their Juſt Rights and Poſſeſſions, your Majeſty's Alliances, and the Treaty of *Nimeghen* ſupported to that degree, that all *Europe* in General, and this Nation in Particular may for ever have occaſion to celebrat your Majeſty as the great Maintainer of Juſtice and Liberty, and the Oppoſer and Overthrower of all Violence, Cruelty and Arbitrary Power.

F I N I S.

306010